

## **CALL FOR JOINT EFINORD–SNS NETWORKS for 2012**

The network call is announced jointly by the Nordic Forest Research Co-operation committee –SNS and the North European Regional Office of European Forest Institute – EFINORD. Deadline for application submission is 1 June 2011 at 24.00 CET.

### **Who can apply?**

Researchers at research institutions in the Nordic (\*) and other countries in the EFINORD area (\*\*) are eligible to apply.

(\*) Nordic is defined here as Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the autonomous areas, Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland Islands. (\*\*) Other countries in the EFINORD area is defined here as Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, NW Russia, Poland, Northern Germany, Northern UK, Ireland.

### **Call description**

The aim of the Joint EFINORD-SNS network call is

- to increase North European regional synergy within forest research by networking and joint utilisation of unique research facilities
- to establish better contact between the forest research communities in the Nordic, Baltic Sea and the North Atlantic regions
- to strengthen North European forest research and networking in Europe
- to encourage North European forest researchers to take part in pan-European and international projects

Regional synergy can be described as activities which otherwise would be carried out on national level, but where considerable positive effects can be reached through a wider regional scope.

Applicants are encouraged to

- have PhD students and young researchers participating in the network
- build a network with an even gender distribution

## Scope

The applications are expected to contribute to the strategic goals of EFINORD and SNS. SNS and EFINORD share a common goal of supporting research in sustainable forest management.

SNS prioritises the following research topics in its strategy 2010-2013:

- Climate change, including adaptation of the forest and its ability to counteract the changes.
- Measures to increase biomass production for the replacement of fossil and other non-renewable natural resources
- Materials development and methods for increased and new uses of wood products
- Forest and forest land use, which preserves and restores biodiversity and avoids negative impacts on soil and water
- Forest damage and health - preventive and restorative measures
- The economic, social and cultural significance of forests in society, and forest management in the urban environment

EFINORD promotes forest research activities by

- Strengthening North European forest research networking in areas where North European synergies can be obtained. Under the broad thematic umbrella of sustainable forestry, the focus of EFINORD is on the following topics:
  - 1) Biomass production and intensive forest management
  - 2) Ecosystem services
  - 3) Climate Change
  - 4) Environmental economics
  - 5) Governance and policy
- Facilitating communication of research results and policy advice on the abovementioned topics.

## Economic framework

Network grants are for 1 year

The total budget for the call is 140 000 Euro.

- The applied amount per network should be approx. 10.000 – 25.000 Euro
- A self financing component of at minimum 50% of the total budget of the network is required
- For non-Nordic participants, there should be documented financial support to the network activities from the relevant countries. Funding should be proportional to the total network budget.
- The funding should primarily be spent on networking activities such as travel and meeting costs, and related networking cost, e.g. costs of guest lecturers, printed matter, database

costs or website cost (excl. hardware). Funding is not granted to labour costs, or to costs of board or other administrative meetings.

### **Call conditions**

- Applications must include research groups from at least three Nordic countries (or autonomous areas) and three other EFINORD countries. One Nordic country can be substituted by a Baltic country (Latvia, Lithuania, or Estonia).
- Network activities should describe the expected Nordic and North European regional synergies within forest research
- The network should have a plan for communication activities, and a publishable output of its topic/area is expected.
- Applications must be submitted by email using the application form to EFINORD and SNS secretariat (email addresses, see the application form). Applications have to be submitted in English. The currency in the applications should be Euro.

### **Schedule**

- The call is announced 24 March 2011 on EFI and SNS websites and by mailing lists.
- Applications must be submitted no later than 24.00 CET on 1 June 2011.
- Decisions will be made in November 2011 and communicated to applicants in December 2011.

### **Evaluation and selection process**

The applications are assessed by 3–5 members of the SNS board and 3–5 evaluators nominated by the EFINORD Advisory Group. The evaluation criteria are described below.

The secretariats of EFINORD and SNS compile the results of the evaluation and prepare a joint proposal.

Based on the proposal a decision on the selection is made at an SNS Board meeting, in which an authorised representative of EFI shall participate in the decision-making process.

### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

#### **Quality of the application**

- Are the planned activities clearly described
- Does the network have a working program /clear aim of activity

#### **Economic framework**

- Is the self financing component 50% in limits of the total budget of the network
- Is the additional funding for participating non-Nordic participating documented
- Are the budgeted costs inside the scheme of refunding

- Is the activity in line with the amount applied
- Is the amount applied inside the funding frame

### **Expected outcome**

- Does the network produce a publishable output of its topic/area
- Does the activity aim to produce other outputs, e.g. a project application, organising an open conference, infrastructure services (e.g. database, dissemination activities)

### **Relevance**

- Is the activity/topic relevant to SNS and EFINORD strategies
- Does the activity increase regional synergy in the Nordic and North European regions

### **Composition of the network**

- Does the activity involve three Nordic countries and three other EFINORD countries
- Does the network involve young researchers / PhD students
- Does the network have an even gender balance

## **REPORTING AND ECONOMIC GUIDELINES**

Reporting and economic guidelines for funded networks can be downloaded from the SNS website ([www.nordicforestresearch.org](http://www.nordicforestresearch.org)) and will be communicated directly to successful applicants by e-mail.